

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art made of record does not teach or fairly suggest the combination of elements as recited in the independent claims. Specifically, the prior art does not teach the elements argued by applicant in Remarks filed 3/18/2009. Furthermore, the prior art does not teach the elements included in the independent claims according to the below Examiner's Amendment.

The dependent claims being definite, further limiting and fully enabled by the specification are also allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Examiner's Amendment

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Thomas M. Isaacson on June 29, 2009.

IN THE CLAIMS:

27. (Currently Amended) A method for provisioning communication services, the method comprising:
defining a state machine associated with a communication services provisioning model, the state machine comprising a set of current states of the provisioning model;
defining at least one transition within the provisioning model that defines conditions under which states are added to or removed from the set of current states of the provisioning model; [[and]] generating a signal that identifies when a transition occurs that either adds states to the state machine or removes states from the state machine[.]; and
modifying arguments of the signal, by the at least one transition.

28. (Canceled)

29. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[28]] 27, wherein the signal is generated by an external API of a provisioning engine.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the signal is generated by one of the at least one transition.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein generating a signal that identifies when a transition occurs that either adds states to the state machine or removes states from the state machine further comprises: generating a signal API call; and delivering the signal at a predetermined time after generating the corresponding signal API call.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the at least one transition comprises at least one of a signal type, a set of from states or a set of to states.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the at least one transition performs at least one of adding the to states of the set of current states or removing the from states from the set of current states when a signal matching the signal type is received.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33, wherein the signal matching the signal type is received by an executing instance of the provisioning model and the from states are a subset of the set of current states.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the provisioning model comprises a plurality of executing instances each storing data specific to a respective one of the instances.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, wherein the provisioning model further comprises stored data to be used by each of the instances.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the at least one transition further comprises at least one task that is executed when a signal matching the signal type is received.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the from states are a subset of the set of current states.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37, wherein the at least one transition further comprises transition arguments that are communicated to the at least one task.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, wherein at least one of the executing instances further comprises calls to another model as a sub-instance.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 40, wherein the sub-instance further comprises means for communicating with the at least one instance.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 40, wherein transitions of the at least one

instance are configured to stop executing while the sub-instance executes and continues executing when the sub-instance is done executing.

43. (Currently Amended) A system for provisioning communication services, the system comprising:

means for defining a state machine associated with a communication services provisioning model, the state machine comprising a set of current states of the provisioning model; and means for defining at least one transition within the provisioning model that defines conditions under which states are added to or removed from the set of current states of the provisioning model; [[and]]

means for generating a signal that identifies when a transition occurs that either adds states to the state machine or removes states from the state machine[[.]]; and
wherein the at least one transition modifies arguments of a generated signal.

44. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 43, wherein the at least one transition comprises at least one of a signal type, a set of from states or a set of to states.

45. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 44, wherein the at least one transition performs at least one of adding the to states to the set of current states or removing the from states from the set of current states when a signal matching the signal type is received.

46. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 44, wherein the signal matching the signal type is received by an executing instance of the provisioning model and the from states are a subset of the set of current states.

47. (Canceled)

48. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 43, wherein the signal is generated by an external API of the system for provisioning communication services.

49. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 43, wherein the means for generating a signal further comprises:

means for generating a signal API call; and

means for delivering a signal at a predetermined time after a corresponding signal API call.

50. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 43, wherein the provisioning model comprises a plurality of executing instances each storing data specific to a respective one of the instances.

51. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 50, wherein the provisioning model further comprises stored data to be used by each of the instances.

52. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 44, wherein the at least one transition further comprises at least one task that is executed when a signal matching the signal type is received.

53. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 44, wherein the from states are a subset of the set of current states.

54. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 52, wherein the at least one transition further comprises transition arguments that are communicated to the at least one task.

55. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 50, wherein at least one of the executing instances further comprises calls to another model as a sub-instance.

56. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 55, wherein the sub-instance further comprises means for communicating with the at least one of the executing instances.

57. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 55, wherein transitions of the at least one

instance are configured to stop executing while the sub-instance executes and to continue executing when the sub-instance is done executing.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Etienne P. LeRoux whose telephone number is (571) 272-4022. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 8:00 am - 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Apu Mofiz can be reached on (571) 272-4080. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Etienne P LeRoux/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2161

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